

1ST REGIONAL WORKSHOP OF ACREDITED PREFERRED TRADERS

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SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES



1ST REGIONAL WORKSHOP OF ACCREDITED PREFERRED TRADERS

- All SACU Member States have accredited Preferred Traders, respectively.
- The SACU region is renaming the Preferred Trader Programme to an Authorised Economic Operator Compliance Programme.
- In parallel, the SACU Region is developing a Regional AEO Programme which will include Compliance and Security.
- The SACU region will consider different models of when developing the Regional AEO Programme including measurable, meaningful and tangible benefits. It should also include e-commerce and all actively trading sectors.
- The region plans to expedite work to complete the development of the Regional AEO Programme to pave way for implementation.
- The region plans to also expedite mutual recognition arrangements to extend benefits to the regional level.
- The SACU region plans to include Other Government Agencies and SMMEs in the AEO Programme.
- All SACU Member States to meet the same minimum criteria to accredit the Preferred Traders.

LESSONS LEARNT FROM EXPERTS

The experiences of Accredited PTPs vary from one country to the other

Botswana

- The accredited Preferred Trader has initially benefited from the PTP in 2014
- Currently the programme is dormant
- Proposal is to resuscitate the national PTP and reintroduce the PTP desk at the borders

Eswatini

- The accredited Preferred Trader receives the benefits in terms of 5% reduction on time it takes to cross the border; trust and relationship built with the government helps to expedite clearance
- Improvements are on data exchange between countries, accreditation of exporters to be detailed and enable uploading and submission of digital entries to improve speed on registration process, gate passes to be submitted electronically
- The region to commit to timelines to develop and fully implement Regional AEO Programme with Mutual Recognition

Lesotho

- All 10 accredited PTs are receiving the benefits and this has saved time on clearance
- LRA constantly sends our questionnaire to determine the efficiencies of the Programme
- Improvements were done on ASYCUDA it is now functioning well on the payment systems
- Lesotho has no proposed improvements

LESSONS LEARNT FROM EXPERTS

Namibia

- The accredited Preferred Trader is still new and has not yet experienced the Programme. They will report in the next session.

South Africa

- Accredited traders are receiving the benefits such as Relationship Manager, Fewer routine inspection, prioritisation and use of non-intrusive inspection.
- The proposed improvements are on inclusion of Other Government Agencies, and improved coordination within the SARS Divisions when dealing with the accredited client

CONCLUSION

The SACU region to:

- Follow-up with Member States to identify challenges, including where the Preferred Trader Programmes are reported to be *dormant. Secretariat to provide the required support to resuscitate the Programmes
- Improve data exchange between countries, accreditation of exporters to be detailed and enable uploading and submission of digital entries to improve speed on registration process, gate passes to be submitted electronically
- Expedite the development and implementation of the Regional AEO Programme with Mutual Recognition and commit to timelines
- Appropriate and robust collaboration in the region private sector, OAGs, Customs
- Resuscitate the National and Regional Customs Trade Forum
- Develop a monitoring tool for implementations of the AEO to track meaningful tangible benefits
- Training